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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office 263 13th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33701 (727) 824-5312; Fax 824-5309

MAR 16 2006

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Dear Commercial Fishing Permit Holder:

You are receiving this letter because you are the holder of a permit for a commercial fishery that may encounter marine mammals. Based on your permit information, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has automatically registered you in the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP). Enclosed is your marine mammal Authorization Certificate for 2006. Because this is an automatic registration, NMFS has waived the usual application and fee requirements. Your Authorization Certificate may be suspended or revoked by NMFS for failure to comply with any of the Terms and Conditions listed on it.

Enclosed are some common questions and answers regarding the MMAP, and information on NMFS' fishery observer program for marine mammals. Please review this information carefully and keep it for your records. If you have any more questions after reviewing this information, please call NMFS at (727) \$24-5312 or visit our MMAP website: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/mmap/.

Sincerely,

David M. Bernhart

Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources Division

Enclosures:

MMAP Authorization Certificate MMAP Questions and Answers Observer Coverage Fact Sheet

